

## **FORM 1**

### **Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

#### **1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No \_\_\_\_\_ (go to Form 2) Yes \_\_\_\_\_X\_\_\_\_\_ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

a) **Inventory Source:** \_ BLM Rawlins FO 1979 Wilderness Inventory Hard Copy Files \_

b) **Inventory Area Name(s)/Number(s):** Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408. Hand drawn on 2006 Rawlins, WY 1:100,000 Surface Management Status map

d) **BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):** Rawlins Field Office

#### **2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:**

Mixed ownership between BLM, State, and private. Almost all federal land is leased for oil and gas. Contains many oil and gas drilling operations, and producing fields. Many miles of fence, many reservoirs, improved springs, and wells. Permanent improvements and many miles of bladed roads preclude the area from possessing wilderness qualities. Other human activity includes hunting, livestock grazing, management activities. Several ROWs granted for oil and gas pipelines, powerlines; uranium claims in large portion of unit. Complex in vegetation and topography. Primary plant associations are sagebrush, salt brush, greasewood, and forest cover. Variable topography ranges from steep rugged hills and rims to flat/gently rolling bottom land. The 1979 unit evaluation for Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408 concludes that the area “obviously and clearly does not have potential for wilderness.”

Inventory Source: \_1979 Initial Inventory (Hard Copy File)

<b>Area #/Name</b>	<b>Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)</b>	<b>Naturalness? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No</b>	<b>Outstanding Primitive &amp; Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No</b>	<b>Supplemental Values? Yes/No</b>
Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408	Yes (375,000 acres)	No	No	No	No
Sage Creek Basin East - WYO-030-17N88W20-11 (a sub-unit of Wild	No – see Form 2	No – see Form 2	No – see Form 2	No – see Form 2	Yes – see Form 2

Horse Basin)					
--------------	--	--	--	--	--

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name **\_Sage Creek Basin East - WYO-030-17N88W20-11, a subunit of Wild Horse Basin WYO-030-408.** Desktop acreage 10,706\_

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes \_\_\_\_ No X \_\_\_\_

Sage Creek Basin East is bound on the east and southeast by Carbon County Road (CR) 401; the west boundary is CR 505E; the north checkerboard boundary is generally the north boundary of T17N 88W. BLM land ownership to the north of the boundary is in the checkerboard pattern. A desktop inventory in May 2011 identified these major road and ownership boundaries and calculated the unit size. Field verification was performed by Drew Stoll and Mark Newby (AECOM) from July 21-23, 2011. The types of routes were determined to meet the definition of Wilderness Inventory Roads, and thereby divided the area into 11 sub-units. The 11 sub-units range in size from 10 to 3,266 acres as shown in Table 1.

<b>TABLE 1. SAGE CREEK BASIN EAST UNIT SUBDIVIDED BY WILDERNESS INVENTORY ROADS</b>	
<b>SUB-UNIT NAME</b>	<b>ACRES</b>
Sage Creek Basin East 01	3,266
Sage Creek Basin East 02	2,574
Sage Creek Basin East 03	63
Sage Creek Basin East 04	1,746
Sage Creek Basin East 05	2,085
Sage Creek Basin East 06	248
Sage Creek Basin East 07	183
Sage Creek Basin East 08	430
Sage Creek Basin East 09	13
Sage Creek Basin East 10	10
Sage Creek Basin East 11	88

The Sage Creek Basin East Unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTION	TOWNSHIP2	RANGE3	SECTION4
t17n	r87w	29	t17n	r87w	4
t17n	r87w	30	t17n	r87w	5
t17n	r87w	20	t17n	r87w	6
t17n	r87w	19	t17n	r88w	1
t17n	r87w	17	t17n	r88w	2
t17n	r87w	18	t17n	r88w	3
t17n	r88w	13	t17n	r88w	4
t17n	r88w	14	t17n	r88w	5
t17n	r88w	15	t18n	r87w	33
t17n	r87w	9	t18n	r87w	32
t17n	r87w	8	t18n	r87w	31
t17n	r87w	7	t18n	r88w	36
t17n	r88w	12	t18n	r88w	35
t17n	r88w	11	t18n	r88w	33
t17n	r88w	10	t18n	r88w	32
t17n	r88w	9	t18n	r88w	25
t17n	r88w	8	t18n	r88w	26

**DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS:** The unit consists entirely of public land in the Rawlins FO. It includes part of Miller Hill and the steep southeast rim of the hill that forms the Continental Divide. The terrain rises in elevation south to the Continental Divide, ranging from approximately 7,000 (Sage Creek Road) to 8,200 feet (Continental Divide) above mean sea level. Vegetation is diverse. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on Miller Hill and the river basin northeast of the Miller Hill rim. The steep slopes of the Miller Hill rim are vegetated with aspen, grasses, and other mountain shrub types. The primary land use is livestock grazing. Dispersed recreation activities include hunting, sightseeing, and motorized and non-motorized use of the Continental Divide. Permanent improvements include four reservoirs (Pine Grove Reservoirs 2, 4, 5, and 6) along Muddy Creek. Fences occur throughout. A City of Rawlins pipeline follows Sage Creek and crosses Rasmussen and other unnamed creeks from CR 401 to Rawlins Reservoir. The pipeline has vents that are visible above ground. Construction debris from an older city pipeline still remains along the general extent of the new pipeline. Abandoned mine sites (uranium) occur along CR 401 along the east boundary of the unit. A few historic cabins exist with cisterns associated with each cabin. Some historic cabins are in use, and have been maintained with new windows and doors. Rock cairns are in the southern ridgepoints, documented in the 2011 Centennial archeology report. Fences as well as meteorological towers exist, but neither limits the long-term wilderness character as ranching is a compatible activity and met towers are considered a temporary land use.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number:** Sage Creek Basin East - WYO-030-17N88W20-11

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

☒ X ☐ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

### Prepared by:

Team members:

Name	Title
Jeremy Call	AECOM Land Use, Recreation, Visual Specialist
Christopher D. Jones	BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner
Drew Stoll	AECOM Public Lands, Recreation & GIS/GPS Specialist
Mark Newby	AECOM GIS/GPS Specialist
Brian Smith	BLM Recreation Specialist IDT Member
Pam Murdock	BLM Chokecherry-Sierra Madre EIS IDT Leader
Cheryl Newberry	BLM Range Specialist IDT Member

### Reviewed by:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_